

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

SAM-01 IO-13 /075 W

----- 032280

R 070147Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7054

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANILA 9739

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: SUPREME COURT JUSTICE CALLS FOR LIFTING OF MARTIAL LAW

REF: MANILA 8651

1. IN JUNE 30 ADDRESS AT COSMOPOLITAN CHURCH, SUPREME COURT JUSTICE CLAUDIO TEEHANKEE SAID IT WAS TIME PRESIDENT LIFTED MARTIAL LAW. HE EXPRESSED HOPE HIS FELLOW CITIZENS HAD LEARNED LESSON THAT DEMOCRACY CANNOT BE ABUSED (APPARENT REFERENCE TO PRE-MARTIAL LAW "LICENSE"). HE SAID, "IF WE ADHERE TO THIS LESSON, I BELIEVE IT IS THE TIME INDEED THAT WE RETURN TO NORMALCY AND PETITION FOR A DISMANTLING OF MARTIAL LAW." HE URGED THOSE SHARING THIS VIEW TO "RAISE THEIR VOICES AND DEMAND THE TERMINATION OF MARTIAL LAW SOONER THAN LATER." ACCORDING TO AP, TEEHANKEE ALSO REFERRED TO UNDERSECRETARY OF DEFENSE BARBERO'S REMARKS IN SAME FORUM (REFTTEL) ON NEED TO END MARTIAL LAW SOONER RATHER THAN LATER. TEEHANKEE COMMENTED ADVOCATING RETURN TO CIVIL RULE WAS "NOT DISSIDENCE, DISLOYALTY OR SUBVERSION" SINCE PRESIDENT HAD DECLARED MARTIAL LAW A TEMPORARY CONSTITUTIONAL EXPEDIENT WHICH WOULD BE LIFTED WHENEVER PEOPLE DEMANDED.

2. TEEHANKEE'S ADDRESS COMES EIGHT DAYS AFTER HIS
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SUPREME COURT COLLEAGUE, JUSTICE ANTONIO BARREDO,

TOLD GROUP OF MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS AND JUDGES THAT HE FORESAW "DAWNING" OF THE COUNTRY'S RETURN TO NORMALCY SINCE PRESIDENT MARCOS WAS NOT BENT ON PROLONGING MARTIAL LAW. BARREDO, WHO DEFENDED COURT AGAINST CHARGES IT HAD BECOME PRESIDENT MARCOS' "PUPPET," SAID PRESIDENT MARCOS HAD INDIRECTLY INDICATED HIS DESIRE TO END MARTIAL LAW BY HOLDING REFERENDA IN 1973 AND 1975 ON ITS CONTINUANCE. BARREDO CONTENDED IT WAS THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES WHO OPTED FOR THE CONTINUATION OF MARTIAL LAW SINCE IT HAD BEEN GOOD FOR THE COUNTRY AND HAD ENABLED THE PRESIDENT TO PURSUE HIS REFORM PROGRAMS.

3. COMMENT: THIS IS THE THIRDS TIME IN LESS THAN A MONTH THAT A PROMINENT GOVERNMENT FIGURE HAS CALLED FOR TERMINATION OF MARTIAL LAW. WHEREAS BARBERO'S AND BARREDO'S COMMENTS WERE FEATURED IN GUIDED PRESS, SO FAR TEEHANKEE'S HAVE NOT BEEN REPORTED. BARBERO AND BARREDO, OF COURSE, EMPHASIZED MARCOS MUST BE FINAL JUDGE ON WHEN IT IS POSSIBLE TO LIFT MARTIAL LAW. TEEHANKEE TAKES MUCH MORE OF AN ACTIVIST STANCE SUGGESTING THE PEOPLE "MUST RAISE THEIR VOICES AND DEMAND TERMINATION OF MARTIAL LAW." WHEN EMBOFF RAISED QUESTION OF HIS STAND WITH TEEHANKEE ON JULY 3, HOWEVER, HE SEEMED SOMEWHAT NERVOUS AND EMPHASIZED THAT EVERYTHING HE HAD SAID HAD BEEN "CULLED FROM HIS OWN OPINIONS." IN REGJYL## WE DOUBTED MARCOS HAD ANY INTENTION OF SUMMONING INA SOON WHICH WOULD BE COROLLARY OF LIFTING OF MARTIAL LAW AND END OF LEGISLATION BY DECREE. THIS IS STILL OUR BEST JUDGEMENT ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT NOW APPEARS TO BE FLIRTING WITH IDEA OF ELECTIONS FOR NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COUNCIL TO SERVE AS SURROGATE LEGISLATURE (SEE MANILA 9600). SULLIVAN

NOTE BY OC/T: ## AS RECEIVED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MARTIAL LAW, JUDGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MANILA09739
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760263-0261
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760784/aaaacvzo.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MANILA 8651
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <27 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUPREME COURT JUSTICE CALLS FOR LIFTING OF MARTIAL LAW
TAGS: PINT, PINS, RP, (TEEHANKEE, CLAUDIO), (MARCOS, FERDINAND)
To: SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006